

## Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00  
USIE-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01  
CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DLOS-09 DODE-00 DOTE-00  
EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02 DOE-11 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01  
INR-10 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 NSF-01 OES-07  
OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 DOEE-00 /126 W  
-----109752 212037Z /47

O 211940Z FEB 78  
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1251

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 1701

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: EFIS, PBOR, PLOS  
SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN MARITIME BOUNDARIES

REFS: (A) 77 STATE 41574, (B) 77 CARACAS 2089, (C) STATE 40160

1. AMBASSADOR WAS ASKED TO CALL ON DEPUTY FOREIGN  
MINISTER EVENING FEBRUARY 20, 1978 AND WAS GIVEN DIPLOMATIC  
NOTE DATED FEBRUARY 7 REFERRING TO THE EMBASSY'S NOTE  
DATED FEBRUARY 28, 1977 WHICH CARRIED OUT THE  
INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED IN REF A.

2. INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF VENEZUELAN NOTE AS FOLLOWS:  
BEGIN QUOTE: "THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS PRESENTS ITS  
COMPLIMENTS TO THE HONORABLE EMBASSY OF  
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND WITH RELATION TO THE  
CONTENT OF ITS KIND COMMUNICATIONS NUMBER 106 DATED  
FEBRUARY 28, 1977, RELATIVE TO THE MARITIME FRONTIER  
BETWEEN VENEZUELA AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
IN THE AREA OFF THE COAST OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF  
THE UNITED STATES, THE COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO, THE  
ISLAND OF AVES OF VENEZUELA AND OTHER VENEZUELAN  
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TERRITORIES.  
"IN REPLY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS HAS THE  
HONOR TO INFORM THAT HONORABLE EMBASSY THAT THE MARITIME  
LIMITS, THE APPLICATION OF WHICH THE GOVERNMENT  
OF THE UNITED STATES PROPOSES IN THE AREA DESCRIBED AND  
SPECIFIED IN PUBLIC NOTICE NUMBER 526 DATED MARCH 1,  
1977, DRAWN ON THE MAP ATTACHED TO NOTE NUMBER 106

OF FEBRUARY 28, 1977 (ACTUALLY FURNISHED IN OCTOBER 1977 IN RESPONSE TO 77 CARACAS 9913) ARE ACCEPTABLE TO VENEZUELA.

"IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT, NORTH OF THE DELIMITATION LINE REFERRED TO PREVIOUSLY, VENEZUELA, AND SOUTH OF THAT LINE, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, WILL CARRY OUT NO ACT, CLAIM OR EXERCISE OF SOVEREIGNTY OR JURISDICTION OVER WATERS, THE SEABED OR WHAT LIES BENEATH THE SEABED.

"THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE LINE OF DELIMITATION OF MARINE AND SUBMARINE AREAS NEITHER IMPLIES NOR PRESUPPOSES AN ALTERATION OF THE CRITERIA OR POSITIONS MAINTAINED BY EACH GOVERNMENT OVER THE JURIDICAL NATURE OR THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE.

"BASED ON THE FORMER CONSIDERATIONS, THE GOVERNMENT OF VENEZUELA HAS THE HONOR TO PROPOSE THAT, IF THE TERMS OF THE PRESENT INSTRUMENT ARE ACCEPTABLE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, THIS NOTE AND THE RESPONSE OF THAT GOVERNMENT (I.E., US), AS WELL AS THE CORRESPONDING MAPS, WILL CONSTITUTE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN BOTH COUNTRIES. IN SUCH A CASE, THE AGREEMENT WILL ENTER INTO FORCE ONCE THE PERTINENT LEGAL PROVISIONS OF EACH COUNTRY HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT.

"THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS TAKES THIS OPPORTUNITY TO REITERATE TO THE HONORABLE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA THE ASSURANCES OF ITS HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.  
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"CARACAS, FEBRUARY 7, 1978." END QUOTE

3. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT REACTION ASAP. THE VENEZUELANS WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THIS EXCHANGE OF NOTES CONCLUDED AT THE TIME OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT TO VENEZUELA (THIS COULD TAKE PLACE AS EARLY AS THE END OF MARCH 1978).  
VAKY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** WATER BOUNDARIES, DIPLOMATIC NOTES  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 21 feb 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1978CARACA01701  
**Document Source:** CORE  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Subject:** VENEZUELAN MARITIME BOUNDARIES  
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**To:** STATE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
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20 Mar 2014  
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